

THE CLIMAX



VOLUME I.

RICHMOND, MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1888.

NUMBER 35.

NEW CLOTHING FIRM, NEW GOODS, NEW PRICES!

COVINGTON & MITCHELL

—announce that their goods are now

Open for Inspection.

The public is cordially invited to call and examine these goods and learn prices.

THEIR READY-MADE CLOTHING

consists of the latest patterns and best materials.

Men, Youths & Boys

of all sizes can be furnished with everything in the Clothing and Furnishing-goods line,

From an Overcoat to a Necktie.

Fat men and thin men need not fear that they cannot be pleased.

GOTHAM'S NEW RACE.—
New York Bubble with Mongolian Fathers
and Chinese Mothers.

The other day I had just turned into the square and I had passed Mott street, when a commotion a short distance in advance attracted my attention. The heterogeneous mob of pedestrians were collected about some moving object.

"Hurry up, Sally, let's see it's face," shouted a very dirty girl of ten, whose frowsy red and freckled face brushed against my arm. A dozen of the assorted babies on the block—some of them with faces double the age of their mothers—were making for the center of attraction, and I followed their example.

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Can you guess what caused such a passing sensation—for nothing short of a fire causes more on the Bowery. One poor little Chinese baby of two celestial summers, who toddled along the walk with his tiny fist held along the hand of a Chinaman, whose native dress indicated that he was a beggar. The little one had attained in a couple of days in New York and China, with trousers and jacket, and a fancy turban, was on his head. A wonderfully bright face it was that gazed up steadily at the crowd, and accepted rough endeavor to caress with all the serenity of a wooden image. Curious to know who these small youthful heathen might be, I interrogated his guardian in my very best Chinese, and was informed that Tom Lee, famous as the only deputy sheriff of his race in New York, was the father.

Now I know Tom, who is a clever fellow and opulent with all, and the proprietor of a pretentious grocery at the corner of Mott street and the Bowery. I know, too, that there was a Mrs. Tom, who was not Chinese, but I was puzzled to account for the true features of the boy, and determined to pay the lady an afternoon call at once and clear the matter up.

So happened to be visiting, I was informed, at the cigar store of a friend a few doors down the street. This shop, which was very neat, was decorated on one side with a Chinaman nursing a black eye on a soap box, and on the other with an ordinary cigar case. Behind the latter sat a rather pretty woman with German features, busily engaged in knitting and looking so neat and comfortable that it was quite impossible to address her without lifting my hat.

"I beg pardon, madam," said I, "but I am looking for the wife of Tom Lee."

"No, you're looking at her, sir," was the smiling response.

"Indeed!"

My evident admiration and the purchase of a two-cent cigar for fifteen cents placed me at once upon an easy and chatty footing, and I related to her the sensation caused by her young son's presence.

"Oh, yes," she said, "they always follow him."

"But how is it that he has such features?"

"I'm sure I don't know. I have had four children since I married Tom, and all looked like their father. Two of them are dead."

"Does a Chinaman make a good husband?"

The little woman's answer was emphatic.

"Well, I wouldn't want to change

A DELIGHTFUL STOCK OF HATS.

Every kind and style of Hat, from the finest silk to the cheapest felt.

Shirts in Profusion

and great variety. No house in Central Kentucky carries a better stock of shirts.

A Splendid Line of Neckwear.

MERCHANT TAILORING.

A FIRST-CLASS CUTTER of years of experience, and a competent corps of tailors, together with a

Large and Choice Stock of Suitings

and TROUSERINGS in both Foreign and Domestic Goods, enables Covington & Mitchell to compete with all houses everywhere.

COVINGTON & MITCHELL.

T. M. LACKEY, Salesman.

Feb 22.

called an art—one must be able to get one's self occasionally, to remember that "absence makes the heart grow fonder," and to realize that constant companionship, intense curiosity and a gentle assumption of proprietorship will in time separate the most devoted inseparables. A lasting friendship must preserve a proper respect that will not allow itself to be imposed upon; it must be sympathetic, but not curious; loving, but not jealous; willing, but not self-sacrificing. Duty may be devoted to me, but she is not for that reason obliged to confide to the world at large how much I think of her and how I could not do without her. In the younger days of this old planet, when people were few and the choice of friendships necessarily limited, such friendships might have existed; but now the world will say that Delicia and I are friends to-day and acquaintances or, perhaps, foes to-morrow.

Friendship is often the result of two great familiarities and the wise woman will see its danger and avoid it, for it surely breeds what all the wise lives among us, and the old proverb predicts for it—contempt.—*Butterick's Delineator*.

BURDENSONS FRIENDS.

One of the Most Despicable Results of Too Great Familiarity.

Somebody will doubtless exclaim that real friendship is never a burden, and that only the resemblance of friendship can become such. But think a moment, dear general woman. You love your friend, you appreciate all her virtues, you quietly note and forget her faults, you esteem her opinion, but, oh, you do not like her, and you do not like her presence at times, and you do not like her, and you do not like her, and you do not like her.

Sabbatal Sevi's CAREER.

History of the Growth of Asia Minor.

Sabbatal Sevi was a Sunyrite Jew, born in 1625, and the son of a broker in that city; he was a clever youth, and so well versed in the Cabala and other Jewish books that at the age of eighteen he was made a rabbi. Doubtless he presents poured in to him from all parts, until at length the Sultan ventured to elect from among his trusted followers twelve princes, who were to act as generals to the twelve tribes on their journey back to their country, and as we know, he was one of them. He was a man of great energy, and the people regarded even as far as to our shores, and that there was some talk of sending English ships to assist in the transport, and even the skeptical Spinoza, from all he heard, was at one time inclined to waver in his disbelief. The scenes of frenzied excitement in Smyrna were intense; business was entirely suspended and gave place to eager, fanatical worship of Sevi.

The Sultan, however, was not to be moved, and the wise woman will see its danger and avoid it, for it surely breeds what all the wise lives among us, and the old proverb predicts for it—contempt.—*Butterick's Delineator*.

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P. M. POPE

IS THE AGENT AT RICHMOND, KY., FOR

THE CELEBRATED

WEBSTER

FARM WAGONS.

They are about closing up their business and have on hand over 4,000 of them.

PATENT TRUSS ROD AND TUBULAR AXLE.

Manufacture all styles and sizes which they offer at

ESPECIALLY LOW PRICES.

ALL WAGONS WARRANTED FOR ONE YEAR.

The Best Material. The Easiest Terms.

Call on Mr. Pope and examine the wagons. Don't buy before doing so.

WEBSTER WAGON CO.

June 22.

A REGULAR HURRICANE

—HAS STRUCK PRICES AT THE

Busy Bee Cash Store.

In order to close out the following lines of goods we quote prices as follows:

Men's Full Stock Heavy Boots, \$1.50; former price, \$2.25. Ladies' Newmarket Cloaks, \$2.50; former price, \$5.00. Men's Full Stock Heavy Boots, 1.75; former price, \$2.75. Ladies' Newmarket Cloaks, 3.50; former price, \$4.50. Men's Fox Side Lined Rips, 3.00; former price, \$3.50. Ladies' Short Wrap, half train, 4.50; former price, \$10.00. Boys' Full Stock Boots, all sizes, 1.00; former price, \$1.50. Good Overcoats for Men, 2.00; former price, \$3.50. Boys' Best Full Stock Boots, 1.50; former price, \$2.25. Better Overcoats for Men, 3.00; former price, \$5.00. Youths' Full Stock Boots, 75; former price, \$1.25. All-wool Overcoats for Men, 5.00; former price, \$10.00.

Overhoses for Men, Women, Misses, Boys and Children at Cost; also Men's and Boys' Gum Boots, \$1.00. All Winter Goods, such as Flannels, Canton Flannels, Jeans, Heavy Cassimeres, Blankets, Shawls, Underwear, Wollen Hoses, Yarns, Gloves, etc., will be sacrificed at less than cost to manufacture them—close them out at once. Don't fail to attend to this sale, as everything in the house has been made A RED HOT BARGAIN.

This sale will continue day after day until all the above lines are closed out. So come at once and get first choice. Thanking you for your very liberal patronage, we are respectfully,

RAMSEY & OLDHAM,

Proprietors "Busy Bee" Cash Store.

Jun 22.

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NEW HOUSE,

NEW STOCK OF HARDWARE, NEW PRICES, NEW STYLES, AS WELL AS A NEW YEAR.

Shackelford, Gentry & Co.

ask you to call and see them in their elegant new house on upper Main Street, site of the old one that was burned last August.

THEY HAVE THE

Most Complete Hardware House in Central Kentucky.

They have more room, more goods and more desire to sell than they had in their old quarters.

June 22.

Library Lamps

AND

Rodgers' Silver-Plated Knives and Forks.

They can not be surpassed in style or workmanship at

The Prices We Quote.

Very best material employed in their manufacture.

You Will Like Them

if you see them, because you can't help it.

They Are Precisely What You Want.

Our stock of Queen's-ware and Glassware and especially our DECORATED DINNER and TEA SETS, is full and attractive.

BEST GRADES OF

COFFEES, SUGARS, TEAS

and other Staple Groceries, also Canned Goods.

L. E. & G. C. FRANCIS.

June 22.

House And Lot For Sale!

House and Lot on Estill Avenue for sale. Apply to A. C. Clowers, or W. G. White at Drug Store.

Jun 25.

HARRISON MILLER

Has opened a Furniture Repairing and Upholstering Shop second door from the Post-office, next to Hunley's Livery Stable. All work done at reasonable rates. LAYING CARPETS A SPECIALTY.

Sep 25.

THE CLIMAX.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

BY THE

CLIMAX PRINTING CO.

PRICE PER YEAR, \$1.50.

FRENCH TIPTON, & - EDITORS.

W. M. G. WHITE, & -

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KENTUCKY'S DIAMONDS AS LISTED FOR TAXATION.

The Hewitt Revenue Law, that has done a great good for Kentucky, imposes a tax on diamonds, and provides that they be listed separately and have their value attached. The Auditor's report, that has been presented to us by General Hewitt, discloses some wonders relative to the diamonds owned in the State. The whole number of diamonds in Kentucky, as appears from the Auditor's report, taken from the assessors' books, is only nine hundred and thirty-seven. Whether a diamond, as set forth by the Auditor's report, means simply one diamond, or all the diamonds belonging to one person, we do not know. But to give the problem the advantage of the guess, and say all the diamonds of one person is meant, leaves the great State of Kentucky with only nine hundred and thirty-seven diamond owners with a value of \$232,805.

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Jefferson county reports twenty-three diamonds, while at any large party in Louisville several hundred may be seen, but what Jefferson lacks in number she makes up in value, as the average is put way up at \$3,525. Campbell county, which includes Newport, lists nineteen at \$1,515, and Kenton, which includes Covington, reports none, nor does Henderson report any. Warren, which includes Bowling Green, reports none.

These counties that fail to report in the diamond column, we hope, gave theirs in under some other head.

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WASHINGTON D. C. Feb. 13, 1888. Virginia's retiring Senator—Riddell—still persists in the Senate having open Executive sessions. He has declared his intention of bringing the question up every day that he can get the recognition of the Chair until the Senate by some positive declaratory action sets its stamp of disapproval on innovation. In the last Executive session the Senator occupied the whole time in speaking upon his resolution and so no Executive business was transacted. The Senator openly charged that speeches made in secret session by Senators who have as Private Secretaries newspaper correspondents are invariably published in the leading New York dailies, and ridiculed the idea of the sessions being called secret. He declares his intention of calling up his resolution again on Monday.

Dennis Kearney, the Sand lot orator, has been airing himself before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. He is stamping in favor of Representative Cummings' bill to totally restrict Chinese immigration. His manner was exceedingly offensive and when some of his statements were questioned by Representative Hill on Committee he made a personal attack on him and threatened to go into the Representative's district next fall and get his constituents to pull him out of dead cats and bakes still, which his friends, the Chinese, etc. The Committee will go with the demagogue who injures the good cause rather than benefit it.

The large publishers of a country paper are engaged in getting a favorable report from the Committee on Post offices forbidding the sending through the mails at newspaper rates of one- and class matter, tri-weekly publications such as the Seaside Library. These cheap publications have reached an enormous circulation by reason of Standard Literature. In a cheap form, the sale of this low-priced literature has made such inroads on the business of high-priced publishers that the latter complained of the disadvantages at which they were placed in the postal routes and hence the amendment to the postal laws.

The House Committee on Rivers and Harbors is being besieged by delegations from all parts of the country to assign some of the Treasury surplus to them for use on some one or more streams in their State. So far the Committee has not been able to formulate any bill but it is making notes from what is submitted by the various delegations and will endeavor to do something for all of them. It is thought that the bill provides for expending something like at least \$10,000,000. This sum is expected to appear on account and contemplate further appropriations in the next session for carrying on the same improvements. To appropriate at this time for the completion of these many projects would call for nearly \$40,000,000, and that would reduce the prospects of any tariff reduction at this session.

There have already been introduced about 300 bills relating to the tariff reduction and while no one is practicable still many of them contain some good provisions which are being called by the Committee on Ways and Means and will be used in preparing the bill to be submitted by that Committee as the measure of the party. It is probable that the bill may be ready for report by the Committee within the next three weeks.

CONVENTION.

The District Convention of the Women's Christian Temperance Union for the first district will hold its next regular meeting at Lebanon, Thursday and Friday, the 23rd and 24th of February. Different subjects connected with our great work will be presented in papers by the ladies and afterward discussed.

Mrs. Mary Woodbridge, from Ohio, for years the Recording Secretary of the National Union, will be in attendance to help by her counsel and to lecture Friday evening.

All women who are interested in Home vs. the Saloon, whether they have connected themselves with the W. C. T. U. or not are cordially invited to attend.

Mrs. L. M. DODGE, Cor. Sec'y.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Editor of the Climax: The closing exercises of the City School took place at the school house on Second street, February 3rd. It is to be regretted that neither of our papers was represented so that a good report could be made for the public.

[It is to be regretted that the editor was not notified. ED. CLIMAX.] The exercises consisted of songs, selected readings, lectures and declamations. All were good, and reflected great credit to both teacher and pupils. There were eight scholars who finished the course and received certificates viz. F. B. Newell, S. Myers, D. G. Connel, George McDonald, F. Kelley, Pearl Geenty, Connie Carter. Then the three teachers offered prizes. Miss Peyton offered one for the best scholarship which was awarded to Frank Burns. One for the best drawings of maps, was awarded to Wm. Wheeler. Miss Frazer, one on best scholarship, awarded to Besse Bendel. One for good deportment to C. Duncan. One who was best in third reader, to S. Wiggin. Miss Harcourt for best scholarship to Lucy Prather. The essays and readings, etc. Miss Cornell's valedictory, Mr. Frank Burns' reading, Besse Bendel's recitation and last but not least, Pearl Geenty's "Lost Hymn," deserve special mention. Pearl Geenty shows quite a talent, or her teacher has taken extra pains with her, one, or perhaps both.

All were good. Especially did we enjoy Dr. Hamilton's remarks.

GROUND HOG.

NEWS PARAGRAPHS.

Charles Aruckle, the wealthy coffee merchant, against Miss Campbell recently obtained a verdict of \$4,000 damages for breach of promise, has had a disastrous year financially. He is still a wealthy man, but has lost a good deal of money in the last twelve months. He was largely interested in M. E. Post's banking house at Cheyenne, Wyo., which closed its doors last summer.

Last Friday Dr. A. W. Johnstone of Danville performed an ovariotomy on Mrs. E. B. F. Holder, of Right Angle, removing a tumor that weighed 30 pounds. The case though an exceedingly unfavorable one is doing nicely and hopes are entertained of her recovery. This is quite likely the first time this operation was ever performed in the country.—Winchester Democrat.

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At a special term of the Circuit Court last January David Kimball was sent to the penitentiary for two years for stealing the horse of Asa Brock of Goods predict. A few weeks after this incarceration, and while working on the Knoxville railroad near Pineville, he escaped, and for some time he has been hovering about a tenant house on the farm of A. E. Ramsey. On January 25th he was captured and the next day he was taken to Frankfort. Kimball says that a part of the time since his escape was spent in Canada and a part in Indiana.—Winchester Democrat.

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FOR HARRIS NOW.

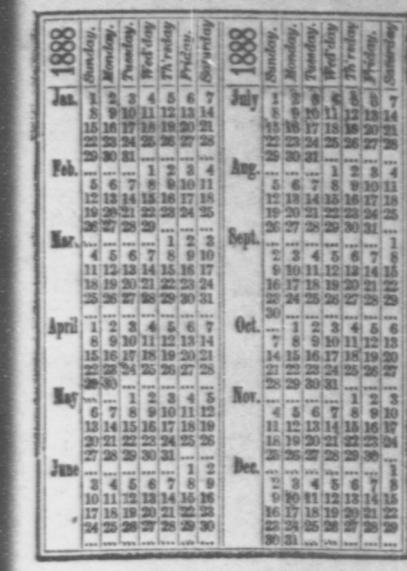
The Lexington Observer lost no opportunity, during the race for Governor, to say a mean thing of Senator Harris. But the Observer talks truthfully in the subjoined paragraph: "Senator Harris is one of the most popular men now in the General Assembly. Among his warmest friends are scores of those who opposed him in his late canvass for the chief magistracy of the State. It will take another Buckner to defeat him for any State office to which he may aspire in the future, and Buckners are so scarce that it is not at all likely that one man will meet two of them in a political lifetime."

THE LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Chehant has had the legislative halls tendered to Mrs. Mary B. Clay for a lecture on Woman's Rights on the evenings of the 20th and 21st.

Committee appointed to investigate the Western Lunatic Asylum.

A bill is pending to allow a man to hold any stock for damages that may jump his fence a second time into his premises.



Renominated.

Maj. George O. Watts, formerly this county, was nominated by the Rapides Parish convention, at Alexandria, Louisiana, for Clerk of the District Court. This is his third term. He has held the office for eight years, and will continue for four more years. Maj. Watts made a strong speech of acceptance, as we see from the Alexandria Democrat. He will not be a candidate for re-election after this term, but we should like to see him in the Legislature, or in Congress.

D. K. E.

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Natural Gas in Kentucky.

Prof. Proctor in his "Report on the Progress of the Geological Survey of Kentucky" says of natural gas:

The recent discoveries of this cheap and valuable heat and light producer in adjoining States have led to hopes of finding valuable stores by boring into the rocks of this State. These efforts have been measurably success- ful, and at the same time have been the cause of greatly increasing the knowledge of the rock formation beneath the surface of the State. Enough has been learned to establish the fact that there are reliable gas horizons in the State, and at the same time to enable the Survey to advise against the putting down of wells in unpromising localities. The results of all the borings made in the State are being collected by the Survey, and it is hoped to have enough data collected to justify the early publication of a report on this subject, giving a map of the State, on which will be located the principal anticlinoriums and lines of disturbances.

Temperance.

Hon. Lou G. Beauchamp has been lecturing night by night at the Court-house since Tuesday of last week on temperance. Crowded houses have gathered him every night and seats are very hard to obtain. Numbers of men stand in the sides to hear him. Hon. Beauchamp is a good talker and keeps the jest of a joke in his inimitable way.

The bride was a barber and kept a

saloon, but very attractive, that a blind man can't help reading it.

Mr. R. P. Fox sold to Mr. Mills of Kansas City, Mo, a good two-year-old jack for \$700 on Monday. Mr. Thos. Baldwin sold last week to C. P. Cooper, Richwood, Ill., a jack for \$900.

Hon. W. T. Tevis purchased of W. L. Crutcher, agent for Evans Hains, the unimproved tract of land of 186 acres situated on Silver Creek, at \$37.95 per acre. Total amount of \$6,975.

Lee and Bob Richardson, charged with stealing a bee hive filled with bees and honey from Mr. W. H. Sale, near Union City on last week, were discharged at their final trial on Friday.

If the City Council will have the signs painted for the street corners, and establish numbers for the houses of every street, the occupants, as a rule will have the number put on their houses.

The Horine lot lying between W. B. Smith and Madison Female Institute 115x264 feet was purchased by W. B. Smith yesterday for \$520. The old Burrell Million place nine miles from Richwood of 1034 acres was sold to Dr. J. T. Hood for \$1,800.

Richmond promises to be unusually gay next week. On Tuesday night the much talked of Leap Year, fancy dress party, on Wednesday evening, (Washington's birthday) the celebration of the Literary Societies at Central University. A Leap Year party, and Friday evening the Cinderella German Club entertain.

Yesterday was St. Valentine's day

and a few, if any real love letters passed through the mails as of yore, but it would almost be impossible to number the absurd caricatures sent through the mails—some, just for fun, others maliciously, and some for pure unadulterated cussedness and meanness.

Medical Society.

A number of physicians met in the office of Drs. Bright & Poysot on last Saturday, and organized a Medical Society. A second meeting will be held at same place to-morrow at 7 o'clock. All physicians in the county invited.

Richmond Get It.

The Piney Woods Messenger says there were seven bids for its jail and court-house. Eason, Wiggins, Brawner & Co., of Richmond, being the lowest the work was awarded them at \$4,864 for the former and \$17,867 for the latter. The amount appropriated for the two is \$25,000.

Wait for the L. S. Ry.

Last week we announced the intention of Mr. James Davis and family to go West; the week before of Mr. David Noble and family, and the week before that of Mr. Dillard, Co., and family. Every few days, some family leaves the county. The Louisville Southern will change the programme.

Suit for Damages.

The guardian of Miss Cynthia Embree, of Bourbon county, has sued Mr. Charles Higgins, of Paris, for \$30,000 for toying with the affections of Miss Embree. Mr. Higgins is a student at Cornell University, is about 19 years old and wealthy. Miss Embree is about 20, and several years ago went to school in Ithaca n.d.

New Lodge of Good Templars.

At the Court-house on Monday night, after the lecture by Hon. L. J. Beauchamp, of Ohio, a Lodge of Independent Order of Good Templars was organized: L. E. Francis, Chief Temp.; Mrs. E. Gibson, Vice Temp.; Rev. Dr. Henderson, Chaplain; B. J. Newton, Secretary; Mrs. B. C. Hagerman, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. W. C. Peyton, Financial Secretary; Mrs. J. B. Willis, Treasurer; C. C. Wallace, Marshal; Miss Carrie Anderson, Deputy Marshal; Miss Lucy White, Guard; James C. Douglas, Sentinel; Miss Sudie Russell, Right Supporter; C. P. Williamson, Past Chief Temp.; P. M. Pope, A. D. Flora and A. D. Smith, Trustee; E. C. Hagerman, Lodge Deputy. Seven- tive or eight members were en-

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Douglas, J. F. Van Lear, J. Tyler, T.

Van Lear, A. L. Irvine, Jas. Henry,

W. C. Cleland and Prof. R. T. Irvine.

Rev. Green Clay Smith.

Speaking of the preaching of Rev. Green Clay Smith in that city, the Glasgow Tribune says: "No living man bears the same unique relation to history as Mr. Smith. A brilliant man of the world, a prominent lawyer, a successful politician, a gallant soldier, a man who failed of the Presidency by a bare half-vote, with a career stretching from the Congressional halls of Washington, to the quiet exchanged every prospect of political and legal advancement for the Brindley cause and trials of his sacred calling. As a minister, Mr. Smith has met with phenomenal success. With a commanding strength of expression, he combines originality of idea, eloquence of thought, and an engaging frankness of delivery. He can soar on the wings of eloquence, or descend to the level of his humblest heart. With a mind naturally lofty, he never rises above his congregation. In the dignified routine of church councils he is a guiding-spirit; in the excitement of theological debate he is at home. At the feast or the funeral, the wedding or the death-bed, he is the same quiet, lovable, unostentatious Christian gentleman and valiant Soldier of the Cross. He is a good man, and a great preacher."

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Death of a Remarkable Colored Man.

Albert Mackey died at his home on Second street in Richmond on Wednesday morning, February 8th, aged 76 years. His death was sudden and unexpected. He was born in Lincoln county, and was brought to Madison county, when twelve years old, by a man named Duff. Two years later, Albert was sold to a maiden lady named Jane Mackey, who lived on the farm now owned by Seneca Harris. Subsequently Miss Mackey removed to Richmond. She was kind to Albert and allowed him his own time at \$100 per year, which Albert paid and had money left. After several years, Miss Mackey decided to move to Iowa, and Albert proposed to buy himself. The price was left to him, and he paid his mistress \$900, which was about all he had. She returned \$100 to him, saying he could have for a new beginning in the world. Albert then married Margaret Embry, a slave, and they raised a considerable family. The Embrys wished to remove to Missouri, and Albert bought his wife and children paying therfor \$4,500. His friends Joel Walker and Joe Turner, two prominent citizens, went with him for a considerable balance, which was duly paid. After a time, Margaret died. Albert married again, his last wife being also a slave. He bought her at the price of \$800. Notwithstanding this payment from time to time of \$500 with much interest, and raising a good sized family, Albert accumulated considerable property, having at one time from \$10,000 to \$15,000 worth. He was wholly uneducated, but possessed a good judgment and unbound energy. He always considered his judgment better than other peoples, so in his older days when his ideas failed him, he lost money and died comparatively poor, but left a good name.

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GUNS AND CRUISERS.

An Alabam Congressman Cries 'About Fast European War Ships.'

Congressman Herbert, who has been abroad since the close of the last session of Congress, devoted considerable attention to the study of naval matters. His service as Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee in the last Congress made him especially familiar with the subject, and, of course, added to his interest in his studies and researches.

"I saw the fastest cruiser ever built," he said to your correspondent. "She was just built by an English firm when I visited her. She is finished now, however, and has been tested and makes, as I learn from the builders, over twenty-one knots a hour."

"How many miles is that, Mr. Herbert?"

"A knot," said the ex-Chairman of the Naval Committee, with a look of pity for the ignorance of the newspaper men, "is about a knot from a mile, or, to be more exact, about a mile and one-seventh. Apply your mental arithmetic, and you will find that twenty-one knots are equivalent to twenty-four miles. As this vessel is safe to put down her speed at nearly twenty-five miles an hour, or nearly equal to a fair railroad rate."

"How does that compare with the speed attained by our new cruisers?"

"Well," was the frank reply. "It is considerably ahead of us. Our new cruisers as now completed we began several years ago to have all the appliances of the latest sort to secure speed. They make something over sixteen knots an hour. We are promised, however, that one or two of the vessels lately contracted will be put as fast as any thing afloat in this line."

"Does this new fast cruiser carry very large guns?"

"No; cruisers do not carry large guns, you know. She has four twenty-one ton guns and several smaller ones."

"You don't call twenty-one ton guns large, then?"

"O, no; they are very small compared with the large guns made now."

"How large are the largest guns now made?"

"That is a little difficult to answer at an off-hand statement, but it is within the limit to say that the great guns now made, the greatest of them shoot a ball sixteen inches or more in diameter and weighing over 2,000 pounds."

"How fast do they shoot?"

"Fifteen miles—you don't mean that, do you, Mr. Herbert?"

"Yes, fifteen miles. Of course, they will not shoot with great precision that distance, nor will they shoot so far as that from the deck of a vessel. But they can shoot that far with sufficient accuracy for instance, to throw a shot into a city or among a fleet of vessels."

Of course, it would only be by chance that the gun would strike a vessel. In fact, it would be difficult, probably impossible, to see at that distance."

"Why can not these big guns be fired as well from a vessel's deck as on land?"

"Because the deck of the vessel does not offer the same firm and unyielding foundation; and, beside, the use of so much powder and such a heavy gun would make it likely to sink the vessel from whose deck it was fired. You see when they shoot these long distances they do not have the gun pointed at it at that distance. In fact, it would be difficult, probably impossible, to see at that distance."

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"Yes, fifteen miles. Of course, they will not shoot with great precision that distance, nor will they shoot so far as that from the deck of a vessel. But they can shoot that far with sufficient accuracy for instance, to throw a shot into a city or among a fleet of vessels."

Of course, it would only be by chance that the gun would strike a vessel. In fact, it would be difficult, probably impossible, to see at that distance."

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